initially the State Government submitted a proposal for Rs. 849.0734 crores for five years (2007/08 to 2011/12) including Rs. 168.461 crore for 2007-08. Subsequently, the State revised its Annual Plan for 2007-08 to Rs. 30.50 crores. Against this an amount of Rs. 11.3362 crore was allocated. Under RKVY, Rs. 46.59 crore has been allocated to the State for the year 2007-08.

International factors inducing farmer suicides

801. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has analyzed the causes that led to suicide by farmers in some States; if so, what are the findings of the survey;

(b) whether it is a fact one of the reasons that led to suicides by farmers is that agriculture has become unremunerative to them following increase in the prices of inputs and element of sophistication due to international factors; and

(c) if so, whether Government is considering any proposal to give remunerative price to the farmers for the agricultural produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) There is no survey specifically undertaken by Government of India to analyze the causes that led to suicide by farmers. However, the State Governments have broadly reported crop failure, indebtedness, drought, social and economic insecurity as causes for committing suicide by farmers.

(b) and (c) The Government's price policy for agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy also seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated prices structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy. Towards this end, the Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. The designated central nodal agencies are required to intervene in the market for undertaking procurement operations with the objective that the market prices do not fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government. The Government decides on the support price for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevent factors which are considered important for fixation of support prices.

Loss of crops due to severe cold waves

802. DR. V. MAITREYAN:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the effect of severe cold conditions prevailing in the country to the standing crops, State-wise;

(b) the total loss of crops both in quantity and value due to the erratic weather situation in the country, State-wise;

(c) the steps being taken to protect the crops during these severe weather conditions in the country;

(d) whether any relief programme is being considered by Government to compensate the losses to the affected farmers due to these weather calamities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Due to severe cold condition prevailing in the country, standing rabi crops have been damaged in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The Punjab State held reported severe loss to the Horticultural Crops and nominal loss to the Agriculture. The State of Haryana has reported loss to crop of mustard to the extent of 223000 tonnes with value of Rs. 401.56 crores, gram at 600 tonnes with a value of Rs. 0.98 crores. The State of Jammu and Kashmir reported the loss to the extent of Rs. 45.10 crore to the crops of wheat, oilseed vegetables, potatoes and fodder crops. The Rajasthan State has reported loss to the extent of 5.85 lakh ha. to mustard and Tara Mira crops. The Madhya Pradesh State reported the damage to the crop of gram, lentil and Arhar to the extent of 015 lakh ha. and the State of Uttar Pradesh has reported the damage to the tune of 11% in mustard, 5% in wheat, 7% in barley and 22% in gram/peas/lentil crops in the districts of Saharanpur and Muzaffarnagar.

(c) The farmers have been advised to provide light irrigation as per need, prone immediately damaged tips of branches or shoot, burn leave/waste material in the orchard to create smock and managing the damaged crops through pruning of dead material and application of extra doses of fertilizer through fliar sprays.

(d) and (e) Cold wave frost is not covered under the guidelines of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). However, the farmers are entitled for compensation under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) implemented through the State Governments.

Crises of food security

†803. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crisis of food security has further increased following shrinking of crop-sowing 'raqba' in current Rabi season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that private companies have started purchasing foodgrains at a price higher than MSP directly from farmers;

(d) if so, the quantity and price of foodgrains brought so far by these companies; and

(e) the special efforts being made by Government to expand 'raqba' of cultivable land and to increase productivity of the crop under food security mission which would do away the increasing shortage of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The likely production of foodgrains during 2007-08 is estimated at 219.32 million tones (IInd Advance Estimate 2007-08) which is the highest ever production of foodgrains in the country. The harvesting of wheat which is main foodgrain

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.